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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

October 3, 1952

SUBJECT: Request of the three Scandinavian Governments for exchange of rights on a new air route from Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm via Thule, Greenland and points in Canada to Seattle or San Francisco

PARTICIPANTS:
Ambassador de Morgenstierne of Norway
Ambassador de Kauffmann of Denmark
Ambassador Boheman of Sweden
Under Secretary of State Bruce
Mr. Ronhovde, Officer in Charge, Northern European Affairs
Mr. Barringer, Director, TRC

COPIES TO:
U - Mr. Bruce
SNA - Mr. Ronhovde
Mr. Tavers
EUR/RA - Mr. Swihart
AV
TRC file

The three Scandinavian Ambassadors called upon the Under Secretary, to initiate a request on behalf of their Governments for consultation with the US Government under the terms of the existing air services agreements for the purpose of effecting a reciprocal exchange of commercial air rights on the route described. The Ambassadors of Norway and Sweden left notes similar to that left by the Ambassador of Denmark during his visit with the Under Secretary on September 16, formally requesting the consultations.

The Under Secretary stated that the US Government was giving sympathetic and urgent consideration to this matter. The Department has already sought the views of the Department of Defense and the Civil Aeronautics Board. He was himself planning to discuss the matter with Secretary of the Air Force Finletter today. It must be borne in mind, however, that the mutual security problem was one which could not easily be overcome.

Ambassador de Kauffmann pointed out the possible political and psychological value of using Thule as an indispensable facility on a new and potentially important air route rather than solely as a military base.

The Under Secretary again emphasized that the Department would press for a prompt reply, the nature of which could, of course, not be anticipated.

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TRC:JPBarringer:aor
9/7/52

DECLASSIFIED Saturday
October 4, 1952

I visited Security Storage this morning and took out six cases of wines.

Harold Linder came to see me at the office today about the present Tariff Commission study, which might lead to the imposition of a quota on wool imports. This would be [redacted] bad, for it would so upset Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, which between them export about $400,000,000 worth of wool, that it might result in the withdrawal by them, the U.K. and other nations from GATT, and in any event would run counter to our foreign trade policy.

The Department of Agriculture has this year altered its principl of supporting the wool producers and is now considering a scheme which would mean support for all wool in the United States [redacted] across the board. Since sheep raisers in this country [redacted] are having difficulty getting herders, and some [redacted] are finding lamb chops more profitable to sell than sheep wool, the sheep population is decreasing and we are more than ever dependent on imports. The growth of the use of synthetic wool is increasing. What this Department is advocating is more thorough study of the whole situation than seems presently envisaged by the Tariff Commission and then, before any decision is reached, a review of this particular matter in connection with the surveys now being made by the President looking toward a proposal by him in regard to various aspects of our future foreign trade policy.

Senator O'Mahoney, on the ~~other side, is pressing hard for an~~ early resolution in this case, and presumably is doing [redacted] for ~~political motives without a full realization of what such action might~~ entail.

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Later, I talked to Messrs. Linder and Barringer about the air routes to Mexico. Ambassador O'Dwyer had mentioned this to me when I was down there. It is a complicated thing, and we shall shortly have to enter into negotiations with the Mexican Government regarding it.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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